



# MINUTES – MEETING OF THE USA CRICKET BOARD OF DIRECTORS

By Conference call – January 18, 2023

## Attendance

### USA Cricket Board Directors

Atul Rai, Interim Chair, Club Director (AR)

Avinash Gaje, Individual Director (AG), Venu Pisike, Individual Director (VP), David Haubert, Independent Director (DH), Srinivas Salver, Player Director (SS), Kuljit Nijjar, Individual Director (KN), Pintoo Shah, Independent Director (PS), Patricia Whittaker, Independent Director (PW)

### USA Cricket Staff

Vinay Bhimjiani, Interim CEO (VB)

Dhruvkumar Barot, Membership & IT Manager (DB)

Jamie Lloyd, Development Manager (JL)

Julie Abbott, Women's Cricket Coordinator (JA)

## 1. Welcome Note

AR welcomed the members of the board to the meeting, and the meeting was put to order. AR updated the board that USA Cricket is not in compliance with the ICC requirements and that there are several areas of governance that need to be worked on. DH requested the chair to provide him with the necessary information to get him up to speed with the USA Cricket matter that will further help him to provide necessary support in his area of expertise, AR acknowledged the email and to get back to him for further discussion on the ongoing business matter.

## 2. National Pathway Tournaments (Cont....)

VP asked for board feedback on the proposal that was put forward during the last board call, and if any members have any questions before the budget is put forward? AG asked if the development committee considered involving the wider community and discussed the potential to intake established junior events as part of the pathway events? VP responded they were discussed and not considered the further due quality of selection could get diluted by biased decisions, further added that the proposed schedule is put in place considering the current ecosystem where USA Cricket pathway events are played over the course of 3-4 months, except selective players that may partake over the long weekend later in the year. AG further asked if these tournaments are running parallelly along with MiLC event? VP responded commercial agreement didn't have any mention regarding the youth events, that the junior tournament is not part of the agreement, and that the senior's event is understood to run across the summer but that should not hinder or stop USA Cricket from running its events. AR and SS further added their comments on similar lines where there is no progress made by VB on renegotiating the contract and there are questions and conducts by ACE that the cricket committee has no clear answer to that need to be addressed, and USA Cricket should not be required to reconsider its activities to facilitate commercial partners and rather it should be another way.

PW asked what considerations were implied there the funding proposal for the zonal event was prepared as zones have their own challenges with inflation and rising prices. VP clarified that for the Zonal tournament, USA Cricket will partner with local communities, and they will be responsible for



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logistical coordination, but agreed further review is required where zonal funding should be based on the volume of teams participating over each region, and where the proposed budget for the nation is based on preceding year event. PW further suggested over budget considering the increasing cost across the nation, VP clarified that those factors were taken into consideration in the proposed budget. PS asked what proportion of the overall budget is used for this project and how are we evaluating the success of this project? VP responded this was about 30-40% of the annual budget and the remaining amount is collected through donations, local fundraisers, and corporate sponsorships, whereas the success of this event is measured by meeting the demands and expectations of the community and performance of our national teams at international events, and so the two goals we aim to achieve as an organization from these events are, one, creating the pathways and the second, growing the game in the country. AR further added to the conversation, as these events play a factor in ICC associate member's rankings and are correlated to funding assistance by the ICC.

DH asked if the ICC funding is available for use immediate? Or we are expected to receive these in the future? Does USA Cricket have the financial stability to host these without causing further damage? And how did these events do last year? AR clarified that the overall budget from the ICC is higher as that includes funding for various other projects and programs, whereas organization we are forecasting somewhere approximately \$5M in funding this year, due to budget constraints and planning uncertainty these events were eliminated in 2022, and so the committee is taking a head start this year to reestablish them, VB further shared his prospects with the board and is positive to assure positive support from one of the establishments in coming weeks. VP further clarified on the cost implication for the USA Cricket events and where the revenue is lost at the moment, potential growth and sponsorships need to be targeted to breakeven in future.

DH further asked to get commitment from the ICC for forward committing the money to these events, AR further clarified the ICC payment terms and funding cycle where there is a need for us to host such events as required, as these events help nurture the local competition from which representative player is selected to play in the ICC events, and that the development committee has been more frugal with the allotment and planning these events. DH further asked if there is an auditor on the board, and where is the accountability for this changing behavior? AR responded that the board agreed to wait until the elections are completed before they reform the Budget and Audit committee. KN further added that there are outstanding payables from 2022 that are yet to be settled and that the organization should consider setting up corporate matching funding programs, and that in the past U13 & U15 events USA Cricket has raised close to 100K in sponsorship and donations from these events.

DH wanted to understand if these events are in competition with other local events or tournaments? SS clarified that the difference is our events are pathway events to the National team whereas the other events are conducted by leagues and academies to play within, VP further added that the major force to support cricket in the country is volunteers and organizations that took in the initiative in absence of such pathway event in the recent year where they started inviting other cities and states to keep up the engagement, and that these organizers are in support of USA Cricket to host the official national and pathway events. AG and SS further added their comments on the needs of these events as NGB is expected to require hosting these pathway events by the ICC.



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## 3. 2023 events Calendar

JL presented the 2023 events calendar to the Board. Events across all the different teams and events were listed for review. All the events with tentative dates are filled in for further review and confirmation. SS conveyed to the board plans around Auty Cup and other preparatory series that will be played to get the team prepared for ICC global event. U19 regional qualifiers event was discussed, and potential preparatory series will be played before the event, AR echoed the importance of having preparation camps to facilitate the U19 team with the best opportunity for the regional qualifiers, SS agreed and are in talks with other teams from the region to play preparation series prior to the event. Other domestic events including u13 to u17 were also discussed with potential dates. A men's interleague competition block was also put in place, and further work was needed to confirm the event and plan around it. Cricket Committee and Development Committee discussed the year's potential events; based on that, JL updated the calendar.

VP asked the board to discuss and decide the number of events that can be hosted based on the budget proposal, and based on those factors the calendar can then be finalized. DH asked if we have operations personnel in place to address these events? AR confirmed that in the past such events were the responsibility of the Director of Cricket Operations, but as that position is not filled in yet, other staff members will be assigned the role to deliver these events, SS added that once the events are confirmed by the board then it goes to the operational team for delivery. PW requested for more details on the preparatory camp before the ICC – Qualifiers play-offs event in Namibia, SS further clarified what the potential plans are. JL further presented the board with a summary of all potential domestic and zonal events for the calendar year. JL previewed the summary of potential women's events including both domestic and international events, VB further confirmed to the board signing the Fairbreak deal where USA Cricket will receive \$250,000 as part of the contract to sanction the event.

AR asked VP if there is any proposed budget prepared for each of these events? As before the calendar is announced, the board should be aware of the budget for each event. VP further clarified that this was talked about in the previous meetings where the cost is budgeted at \$600,000 for Men's, U19, and Juniors. JL further clarified that the preliminary budget that was submitted a few months ago, has a summary of forecasts for ICC events and other domestic events. VP proposed to the board to conduct a full range of domestic pathway events and based on that the calendar and conservative budget was put together and presented to the board and asked to board to review and approve the domestic calendar for release.

**The Board resolved:** DH proposed the motion, The Board's approval of this annual tournament schedule with corresponding budget to be announced publicly, to be reviewed with very close timeline after the completion of each activity, and reporting back to the board actual results and that the whole plan is subject to change at any time based on performance and also funding is contingent upon ICC funding and other sources of funding, as anticipated.

In favor: All members

Abstain: Nil

Against: Nil



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Recused for this item: Nil

## 4. Other Business

AG requested a closed-door meeting with BOD only.

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